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### Flathead households prefer single-family dwellings

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IMMEDIATELY

FLATHEAD HOUSEHOLDS PREFER  
SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS

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MISSOULA--

Despite high interest rates and inflated housing prices, Flathead County households overwhelmingly prefer to live in single-family homes they own themselves, according to a report issued recently by the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER), Missoula, and the Montana Board of Housing in Helena.

The report discusses the results of a BBER survey of housing needs and preferences in the state. Sponsored by the Montana Board of Housing, the survey also generated additional information concerning Montana households.

Flathead County households surveyed reported a high percentage actually living in single-family dwellings. Seventy-eight percent reside in such housing, which compares with 72 percent for the state as a whole. This figure places Flathead County second only to Silver Bow County among Montana's seven most populous counties.

County household's also reported the lowest percentage of those residing in multifamily structures of the most populous counties. Five percent said their residence was a duplex, apartment, or multiunit building. And 17 percent of the county households surveyed live in mobile homes. Only Lewis and Clark County reports a higher proportion of mobile home dwellers.

(more)



## FLATHEAD HOUSEHOLDS--2

When asked what type of housing they preferred, if given a choice, Flathead households strongly agreed on single-family homes. Eighty-six percent responded this way; the statewide figure is 81 percent. And 7 percent named apartment units as their preference, while 5 percent preferred mobile-home living. No county households reported a preference for condominiums.

County households rank the highest among the most populous counties in preference for home ownership. Ninety-three percent of the Flathead County households questioned in the survey indicated such a preference. By comparison, 80 percent of all survey participants responded favorably to the idea of home ownership. The figures for Flathead County are not surprising, since a high percentage of county residents reported buying or already owning their homes free and clear.

Despite their apparent satisfaction with their current housing situation, some county residents did report that they were looking for other housing, or considering looking. Poor insulation, overcrowding, and high housing costs were the reasons given. Using the survey results to project actual numbers, BBER estimates that about 3,120 Flathead County households would actively seek other housing in 1979, and 4,250 would consider looking.

Other information in the report includes a profile of Flathead County households, giving the average number of residents per household, the educational level achieved by household heads, and the median income earned. The survey also questioned residents about their attitudes toward living in condominiums and mobile homes.

The report summarizes survey results for the state. Specific information is available for the six other most populous counties: Cascade, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Silver Bow and Yellowstone.

Copies of the housing study report are available for \$3 from the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana, Missoula, and from the Montana Board of Housing, Mitchell Building, Helena.